

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	DeLoach et al.	Art Unit:	2822
Serial No.:	10/689,177	Examiner:	Guerrero, M.
Filing Date:	10/20/2003	Docket No.:	TI-35986
Customer No.:	23494	Conf. No.:	2711

Title: AN IN SITU HARDMASK PULLBACK USING AN IN SITU PLASMA RESIST
TRIM PROCESS

REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The following remarks are offered in response to the Examiner's Office Action dated October 11, 2006. They are respectfully submitted as a full and complete response to that Action.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending in this case.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tseng (U.S. Patent 6,093,621), of record, in view of Nagarajan (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0166838).

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over Tseng in view of Nagarajan as there is no disclosure or suggestion in the references of trimming a
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